# Correspondence Supporting Increased Betting Limits

A sign-up sheet to testify was placed on our agency website after the October Commission meeting. At the time of the November 2003, Commission meetings, a total of 84 people visited our agency website and signed-up in support of the Petition. 45 of the 84 people provided their names and addresses which are listed below.

#2.2 20.4 20.4	Name, Company, Address	Are you For or Against	Testify Yes or No
1	Dave Wilkinson, 11819 Renton, Ave S, Seattle, WA 98178	For	Yes
2	Chris Kealy, Cascade Gaming, 625 Commerce St., Ste 270,	For	Yes
3	Mark Palmer, Great American Casino, 12715 4 <sup>th</sup> Ave. W, Everett WA 98204	For	Yes
4	Gary Murray, Great American Casino, 10700 SE 208 <sup>th</sup> St, Kent, WA 98031	For	Yes
5	Bruce Meyer, Michels Development, LLC, 18000 Pacific HWY S, #905, SeaTac, WA 98118	For	Yes
6	Cathy Lewis, Michels Development, LLC, 18000 Pacific HWY S, #905, SeaTac, WA 98118	For	Yes
7	Jeff Jackson, Cadillac Ranch Casino, 1125 Commerce Ave, Longview, WA 98632	For	Yes
8	Mark Mitchell, Drift on Inn Casino, 2412 NW 91 <sup>st</sup> , Seattle, WA 98117	For	Yes
9	Ernestine Farness, Seattle Jaycee Bingo, 11030 E Marginal Way, S., Tukwila, WA 98168	For	Yes
10	Shawn Yager, Silver Dollar Casino, SeaTac, 30560 5 <sup>th</sup> Ave, SW, Federal Way, WA 98023	For	Yes
11	Sandra Harvey	For	No
12	Pat Hosier	For	No
13	Albert L. Dykes, Marty's of Edmonds	For	No
14	Lori Payne, Crazy Moose Casino	For	No
15	Eric Arneson, Michel's Development	For	No
16	Keri Barker, Cadillac Ranch Casino	For	No
17	Angela Bakunowicz, Cadillac Ranch Casino	For	No
18	Jim Bakunowicz, Cadillac Ranch Casino	For	No
19	Teresa Bakunowicz, Cadillac Ranch Casino	For	No
20	Merle S. Munger, Cadillac Ranch Casino	For	No
21	Rosalind Mathis	For	No
22	Scott Chappelle, Cadillac Ranch Casino	For	No
23	Steve Michel's Development	For	No
24	Patsy Ray, Cadillac Ranch Casino	For	No
25	Mark Dunow, Dead Man's Hand, LLC	For	No
26	DaNicia Sheldon, Cadillac Ranch Casino	For	No
27	John Wheeler, Gaming Consultants, Inc	For	No
28	Jerry Gutman, Gaming Consultants, Inc	For	No
29	Deaun Scott	For	No
30	Lee Spencer	For	No
31	Rick Beadle, Silver Dollar	For	No
32	Greg Bakamis, Evergreen Entertainment	For	No
33	Monty Harmon, Harmon Consulting, Inc	For	No
34	Lisa R. Harris, Silver Dollar, SeaTac	For	No
35	Christy Walker, Gaming Consultants, Inc	For	No

6 Billy Nguyen, Silver Dollar Casino	For	No
7 Chris Jensen, Silver Dollar Casino	For	No
8 Theresa Fisher, Silver Dollar, SeaTac	For	No
Cheryl Ann Walters, Silver Dollar, SeaTac	For	Yes
Gary Frazier, Silver Dollar Casino, SeaTac	For	No_
Cheng Zhang, Silver Dollar Casino, SeaTac	For	No
	For	No
	For	No
Tara Lutge, Silver Dollar Casino, Sea I ac  Kim Charles, Jimmy G's	For	No
5 Vy a Luu,	For	Yes

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A sign-up sheet to testify was placed on our agency website after the November Commission meeting. At the time of the February 2003, Commission meetings, a total of 19 people visited our agency website and signed-up in support of the Petition. 1 person provided their name and requested to speak at the February meeting.

Name, Company, Address 12 2	Are you For or Against	Testify Yes or No
1 Dave Wilkinson, 11819 Renton, Ave S, Seattle, WA 98178	For	Yes



Brad Owen Lieutenant Governor



October 9, 2003

Commissioner Liz McLaughlin Washington State Gambling Commission PO Box 42400 Olympia, WA 98504-2400

Dear Commissioner McLaughlin,

I am writing to you in support of the proposal, which I understand is now before you from the card rooms, to increase the bet limit on card games to \$300.00 from its current limit of \$100.00.

As you know, the bet limit at tribal owned casinos within our state is now set at \$500.00. Non-tribal operators with whom I have met tell me that the \$100.00 table limit is not sufficient to attract new business or maintain their existing clientele. They are losing business and are at risk of losing their businesses altogether. Consequently, local jurisdictions lose tax revenues which are so important in our current economy. As a former small business owner I understand these issues intimately.

I believe this is an issue entirely within your discretion. I trust you Madigle ! will give this careful consideration.

Brad Owen

Lieutenant Governor

President of the Senate Chairman, Rules Commirree

250 Insurance Building PO Box 40400 Olympia, WA 98504-0400

Phone: 360-786-7700 FAX 360-786-7749 e-mail: owen\_br@eg.wa.gov



CITY OF LA CENTER 214 EAST 4<sup>TH</sup> STREET La Center, WA 98629 360-263-8663

October 2, 2003

Washington State Gambling Commission 4565 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE Lacey, Washington

RE: PROPOSED INCREASE OF TABLE LIMIT BETS FOR CARD ROOMS

It is my understanding the Gambling Commission is considering an increase in card room table limit bets from \$100 to \$300.

I have served as Clerk/Treasurer for the City of La Center for 13 years. La Center has four active card rooms owned by two different parties. In my tenure as Clerk/Treasurer I have visited all four card rooms at different times of the day and evening. I have witnessed the transition from the former card room operation to the present house-banked "casino" operation. I applaud the rules and regulations established very early by the Gambling Commission and the "test" process for the operations prior to allowing the proprietors to transition to the house banked method.

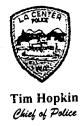
It is because of the successful nature of the regulatory issues related to the house-banked card rooms that I wish to state I have no objection to the proposed increase in the table limit bet from \$100 to \$300. I feel the past record of the Gambling Commission demonstrates that any additional monitoring or regulatory rules needed will be put in place if the increase is allowed.

Sincerely,

Janice K. Fillman Clerk/Treasurer

ancel Filman

Cc: file



# LA CENTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

Phone (360) 263-2745 Fax (360) 263-2757

105 West Fifth Street La Center, Washington 98629 E-mail: dlowry@lacenterwa.com

Washington State Gambling Commission 4565 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. S/E Lacey, Washington

09-27-03

Honorable Commission;

I understand the Commission is considering raising the betting limit of the current card playing structure from \$100.00 to \$300.00. I am writing this letter in support of the change. The increased tax revenue generated would continue to help defray enforcement costs and other city needs.

As you know our local Casino's ways of life are being challenged by the possibility of American Native gambling being constructed in very close proximity to our City. A change in betting structure could help our licensee's compete for the gambling dollars that have to be shared by all the gambling establishments in the region.

As I have stated in the past our local Casinos have been very responsible in their dealings within our community. We enjoy a very good working relationship with them. I support them in their efforts to continue to be leaders in the gambling industry.

In my opinion any increase in the betting limit would be a positive change .I appreciate the enormous task the Commission has and the responsibilities that are placed upon it. I also recognize the need for careful consideration of any rule change. Any consideration given for this rule change is appreciated.

Sincerely.

Tim Hopkin Chief of Police



9/10/2003

Good Morning Commissioners;

My name is Dave Pardey. I own Skyway Park Bowl and Casino in S. Seattle and I have a 14 table House Bank Cardroom. Thank you for letting me testify today on the R.G.A.'s petition to increase our bet limit to \$300.

Its been over three years since I have tooted my horn on something I feel is important to my business and the industry as a whole. I was the third Cardroom to receive my house bank license in 1998 and I rank about 14<sup>th</sup> in revenue in the state, so I am not a big operator, but I feel I am a very average Cardroom, I have always felt I am in the nickel and dime business. When I raise rates in the restaurant and bowl, it's at small increases. In the Cardroom, with a higher limit I feel I will only gain a few customers here and there, but a few more, maybe I can increase me revenue by 2 or 3%. That increase would help me maybe make a few hundred dollars a day, but it is something I desperately need.

Over the past few years I have seen my revenue decrease, and my expenses increase. In the Cardroom alone, I have gone from over 140 employees to 110 employees now.

My revenue is down over \$500,000 in the first 7 months of this year, compared to the same period last year. As all of you are aware, L&I insurance went up 30% this year in Olympia. My quarterly check for L&I use to be around \$20,000, now it is over \$28,000 a quarter.

I have seen my insurance on my business go from \$40,000 two years ago, to over \$80,000 per year for Liability and Fire.

I have 68 employees on the Medical Plan, over 50 of them are from the Cardroom. We have a good plan, with Dental and Vision at a cost of \$269 per employee, I pay 55% and the employee pays 45%. This is very important to the full-time people. These costs have also gone up significantly over the last few years.

Getting back to the higher limits issue. I'd like to take a few minutes to tell you a story about my friend, Bruce Russell, who has a Cardroom in Moses Lake. Four years ago, when Bruce had a \$25 limit at his Lake Bowl Cardroom, I asked him when he was going to go for his Phase II review for a \$100 limit. He said he didn't have any big betters, so he was happy at the \$25 limit. About 1.5 years later, Bruce went to Phase II, when I asked why, he said now and then a few



customers would like to play higher limits. This same concept is true today for Bruce. If he has \$300 limits, he may only use it on the weekends when he's the busiest, but at least he can offer that to his customers when they would like it, and when Bruce feels he can take the gamble you might say, because Bruce knows there is no guarantee he will win, but it helps keep a few customers happy.

In closing, I assume we all meet once a month because we are always in a changing mode in business and in life. I have always supported the Washington State Gambling Commission and we all have a very responsible job to perform for not just the public, but for the industry and for the 175 employees that work for Dave Pardey and Skyway Park Bowl and Casino.

The Liquor Board and the Health Dept don't dictate what I charge for Food and Drink, but the Gambling Commission controls not only the rules, but the types of games, Minimum employee standards, and how much a customer can 'bet' which is the cost of the product known as the 'wager'.

I think I have tooted my horn long enough and I would be happy to apswer any questions.

Sincerely,

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Dave Pardey

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Skyway Park Bowl and Casino

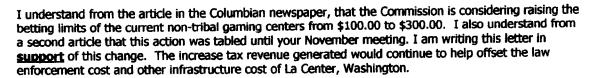


## Heritage Ridge Homeowners Association La Center, WA

October 13, 2003

Washington State Gambling Commission P.O. Box 42400 Olympia, Washington 98504-2400

Honorable Commission;



I am sure you are aware of our local gaming centers. The tax based revenue generated by them to our city is being potentially challenged by the proposed Cowlitz Tribe request for land to be placed in trust for them and the proposed construction of a tribal gambling center within close ( 2 to 5 miles) proximity to our City. I have researched through the Washington Association of Cities, the records of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Northern California to determine what impact a tribal casino built within the close proximity of a town having established gaming centers similar to ours and what the financial impact was to the local establishments. I found none existed. Therefore there isn't any comparison to determine what the potential impact could be to our local establishments. The leveling of the playing field in even this area of wager limits would help maintain even competition for the gambling dollars to be shared by all gaming establishment in the region.

As Chairperson of our Homeowners Association, I spent time discussing this matter with our police chief, Mr. Tim Hopkin. Our local gaming establishments have been very responsive and have taken positive ownership of their dealings within our community. The police Chief has stated many times the good working relationship established between the casinos and the La Center law enforcement. He also stated he had written to you in support of the request to raise the wager limits.

It is the opinion of the Heritage Ridge Homeowners Association collectively that any increase in the betting limits would be a **positive** change and would help in securing the efforts of our establishments is continuing to be leaders in their industry.

I recognize the enormous task the Commission has in the review and the responsibility that is being placed upon you. I also understand the need for careful consideration of the proposed rule change. However, I also wish to state very emphatically that the same **careful consideration** must be considered of the potential impact that <u>no action</u> or a <u>denial</u> of this proposal would have on Cities such as ours who rely very much on the tax base generated by our non-tribal gaming industry not only to the infrastructure of the City but more importantly to the lives and values of the homeowners in and around the City of La Center.

Therefore, positive consideration given for this rule change would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jámes T. Irish Chairman

Heritage Ridge Homeowners Association

1653 E. Heritage Loop La Center, WA 98629

# 73 Citizens Supporting Increased Betting Limits in House-Banked Card Rooms

November 2003, Commission Meeting

1) From: Paul Twamley [mailto:Paul@PJPSERVER1.PJPOCKETS.com] Sent: Sept 23, 2003

I have read numerous of your received emails opposing the increase in table games limits in "mini-casinos" and I would like to point out an issue that none of the emails in opposition have touched upon. This is that limits of more than \$100 are readily available to residents of Washington State in Tribal Casinos. In fact \$500 limits are readily available. Does the opposition even realize this? Potentially not. Not a single opposer even touched on this. Just because an available limit of \$300 is offered this will not affect 90% of gamblers in the state. People have budgets and a player who bets an average of \$10 per hand will not suddenly jump up to betting multiple hands at \$300. This is just not logical. Casinos in Las Vegas have maximum bets that reach to extraordinary levels but you do not see the average weekender betting anywhere even close to the limit. The increase will just give the players who normally bet in the \$300 range the option to go to a local, more personable, non-tribal casino. This really is a matter of competition and business survival for non-tribal ventures. Thank you for your consideration,

# Paul F. G. Twamley - Casino Manager for PJ Pockets Casino in Federal Way

2) From: Greg Means [mailto:gmeans@pipockets.com] Sent: Tuesday, Sept 23, 2003
I would like to express my support of raising the limits for cardrooms to \$300. This issue is long overdue in my estimation. It still leaves an advantage for the tribes, which they seem eager to keep. I just feel that growth for the cardrooms is overdue. Much of the money (20% of cardrooms net win) goes to taxes. Many of the cities would benefit greatly from the increased income from this. It would enable players to enjoy the cardroom gaming experience outside of the busy tribal casinos and still feel that if they get off to a bad start that they can win their money back without being restricted to lower limits that make it tougher to make up lost ground. I feel that this is a win win situation for all concerned. I can't believe that anyone other than a tribal casino would object to this. Thank you for your time.

**Greg Means** 

- 3) From: Joshua Iszley [mailto:jiszley@hotmail.com] Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2003 I am for higher limits in cardrooms. I like to gamble and would like to have the ability to bet higher than \$100. I am also pro business, and I support our local business.

  JOshua L Iszley
- 4) From: TBIszley@aol.com [mailto:TBIszley@aol.com] Sent: Monday, September 22, 2003 I'm writing you today in support of the bet limit increase for mini casinos. The cost of living continues to increase as it will. Health care is going through the roof. This is the only way for mini casinos to cover these item and others. Thanks for your time,

  Tim Iszley

5)From: Bobbi Lovelle [mailto:Bobbil@driftoninn.com] Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2003 We support Bob Tull's presentation to the Commission for increased table limits. As a family owned and operated business we have become successful and have overcome many of the obstacles that have driven other owners out of business. However, we have felt the impact from the new Tulalip tribal casino which is reflected in reduced revenues. Without the advantage of slot machines, craps and other table gaming, only available at tribal casinos, we are greatly restricted from generating additional revenue. In addition, our pull-tab business is down 43%. Increased table limits would give us the opportunity to regain some of our lost revenue. We are confident that our industry will be well represented and look forward to hearing about the discussion at the October meeting. Respectfully,

The Mitchell Family, Drift On Inn Casino, Club Hollywood Casino

6) From: jerold gutman [mailto:jeroldogutman@yahoo.com] Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2003 I am writing to you to state my support for higher betting limits in the casino where I go for gaming entertainment. I understand that you are a representative of the government agency that is considering approvial of higher betting limits and I want to state my support for approval of this issue. I am a social gambler. I manage

my personal finances well and set limits on the money that I spend on entertainment that includes gambling. I would like the option to bet more on my gaming when I choose to do so. Thank you for your support of this issue. Regards,

Jerry Gutman

- 7) From: Gary Hess [mailto:ghess@gagaming.com] Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2003 I'm an employee of a card room and I know plenty of people that go to other casinos because of the limits that we are bound to and that others are not so I don't believe that it is an increase to gaming in the state of Washington when it already exists here.

  Gary Hess, Federal Way, Wa
- 8) From: CYMunro [mailto:CYMunro@icehouse.net] Sent: Monday, September 22, 2003 I'm writing to you as a citizen of the State of Washington. As a resident of the state, I would like to see the gambling limit increased. Gambling is a form of occasional entertainment for me and I would like more of a choice when it comes to deciding how much money I want to spend. I think it is only right for the limits to be increased to a more appropriate level.
- 9) From: beverly james [mailto:bjames@w-link.net] Sent: Thursday, September 18, 2003 Local casinos have a gambling limit of \$100, unless they are Indian casinos and they get to have a \$300 limit. That is discrimination at its worst. Equal gambling rights for all casinos should be the goal. Not blatant favoritism for so called Indian Casinos, I understand that most of the Indian casinos are not really owned by American Indians, but by outside interests, that is also blatantly unfair to both Indians and non-Indians. Thank you Suzanne James
- 10) From: JBoh4234@aol.com [mailto:JBoh4234@aol.com] Sent: Thursday, September 18, 2003 I would like to encourage you to increase the gambling limit at my local casino to \$300.00. I have never quite understood why I am limited to a \$100 bet, as I feel that it is my choice as to how much I would like to bet. It seems to me that freedom of choice is a pretty basic right we all have as American Citizens. Thank you, **Dexter Bohannon**
- 11) From: David Fretz [mailto:dfretz@gcgaming.com] Sent: Wednesday, September 10, 2003
  I thought I'd send you a quick note in response to comments from CAGE on the increased bet limits for card room. They state "It's yet another example of the constant effort to incrementally expand gambling in Washington State". The increase in bet limits should not be construed as an expansion of gambling. This does not increase the number of gamblers or access to gaming; Players will only still only gamble at a level commensurate with their income. However, this change does improve the Players chance for success as the hold percentage for the house is lower with increased bet limits. While not yet allowing Card Rooms to compete on a level playing field with First Nation Casinos, this change will allow Card Rooms to attract some existing Players who currently do not play in our limited stake games.

Regards, David Fretz, Great American Gaming Corporation, President, (360) 668-6080

12) From: Donna Buck [mailto:donnab@zdigaming.com] Sent: Wednesday, September 10, 2003 MY COMMENT TO THE CITIZENS AGAINST GAMBLING IS WHO IS GOING TO STEP UP TO THE THE PLATE AND HELP THE LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS IF THE MINI CASINOSGO AWAY.I WORKED WITH JIMMY G'S AND SILVER DOLLAR TO PUT ON A THANKSGIVING DINNER AT THE AMVETS CLUB. ALSO A CHRISTMAS PARTY WITH GIFTS, FOOD, GAMES, SANTA EVERYTHING FREE AT GATEWAYS FOR YOUTH AND FAMILIES BINGO HALL.OVER1,000 ATTENDED FROM THE RESCUE MISSION AND AROUND TACOMA. THEY ALL SUPPORTED THE SOUTH TACOMA BUSINESS DISTRICT CAR SHOW WITH PRIZES ,ADVERTISING, ETC.ALL OF THE CASINOS ARE WORKING WITH THE GOODWILL TO PROVIDE JOB TRAINING AND JOBS FOR TRAINING GRADUATES. WHILE THESE CONNECTED FORMER OFFICIALS AND PIERCE COUNTY EXECUTIVE LADENBURG HAVE DONE NOTHING, EXCEPT TAX THE CHARITIES OUT OF BUSINESS TACOMA COLLECTS THE MAX THE STATE REG. ALLOWS.6 CHARITIES AND SOME FRATERNAL BINGO GAMES HAVE GONE OUT OF BUSINESS IN THE PAST FEW YEARS THE CITY NOR COUNTY HAS PICKED ANY OF THE SERVICES LEFT OUT.

- 13 A.) From: Greg Bakamis [mailto:gregb@grandcentralcasinos.com] Sent: Wed. Sept. 10, 2003
  This is a subject that the WSGC can act on with out legislative approval. We need it in this industry to compete.
  Greg A.Bakamis, Regional Manager, Grand Central Casinos
- 13 B.) From: Greg Bakamis [mailto:gregb@grandcentralcasinos.com] Sent: Thursday, Sept. 18, 2003 Again I appeal to you to consider allowing the non-tribal casinos to raise therir limits. This is only fair sinc3e the tribes retain the upper hand in this competitive field. Sincerely,

Greg A.Bakamis, Regional Manager, Grand Central Casinos

- 14) From: Pat Hosier [mailto:gm@wizards-casino.com] Sent: Thursday, September 18, 2003
  I would like to address the proposal to increase the mini-casino maximum betting limit. The main objection seems to be that this "expansion" of gaming would have too high a social cost. This is not an expansion. I live 20 minutes away from a tribal casino offering more than 50 tables with \$500 limits. Higher limits for mini-casinos means a 10 minute shorter drive for those who already gamble, not a new, expanded form of gambling. This is an issue of fairness, choice and equity. Mini-casinos deserve the ability to compete and survive based on customer choice and this ruling would create a slightly less slanted playing field in the gambling marketplace. Thank you, Pat Hosier
- 15) From: JBoh4234@aol.com [mailto:JBoh4234@aol.com] Sent: Thursday, September 18, 2003 I would like to encourage you to increase the gambling limit at my local casino to \$300.00. I have never quite understood why I am limited to a \$100 bet, as I feel that it is my choice as to how much I would like to bet. It seems to me that freedom of choice is a pretty basic right we all have as American Citizens. Thank you, **Dexter Bohannon**
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- 19 A.) From: DW0057@aol.com [mailto:DW0057@aol.com] Sent: Thursday, September 18, 2003
  I would like to add my comments concerning raising limits in mini casinos.

My background is 5 plus years in a surveillance room in a mini casino (Skyway) and my over 5 years in retail management with Sears on the Loss Prevention and Operations side.

Gambling, like drinking and smoking are personal decisions that should be left to the individual and regulated, not the way it is now where Tribal Casinos are given preferential treatment and allowed to operate a state sponsored monopoly, supposedly promised to them by Governor Locke.

The less government intrudes into making peoples moral decisions for them the better government will be. Regulate and tax it for the people who choose to partake and help those who need help with taxes collected from it. As it is now the Tribes are allowed to operate tax free, pay next to nothing to support gambling addiction in relation to revenue yet they and puppet groups formed by their agents, AKA C.A.G.E. decry gambling expansion.

Mr. Cocker, a longtime friend of Maleng says it was a natural fit "recruiting" Maleng and Gardner. This is like an iceberg. What you see on the surface is only a small piece of what's hidden below. Even Rep Gombosky agreed that the relationship between the tribes and C.A.G.E. "is completely misleading."

Even the National Coalition Against Legalized Expansion believes there is enough evidence to a financial connection between C.A.G.E. and the I.G.A. that they have removed C.A.G.E.'s information from their national website.

Mr. Cocker, a member of the steering committee of the Indian Gaming Association sees no problems with setting up a front group at the behest of the tribes and when asked about it said "so what? It served our purposes."

I guess we get hung up on definitions According to Mr. Maleng and the tribes. The 200 million dollar casino planned by the Puyallup's, The Tulalip's 70-80 million casino is not expansion yet in the same breath they make the ridicules statement that raising the limit in mini casinos is expansion.

I would challenge you to bring forward 1 letter written by Maleng condemning The Puyallup's new casino, The Tulalips or the new casino recently completed by the Suquamish or even the proposal now in the works with the Snoqualmie and Cowlitz to build casinos or even the rumored one in Leavenworth.

In almost every aspect of business competition is considered good for consumers so why is it that in gaming we hear competition and choices are bad. I was always taught competition helps consumers by increasing prizes and comps to those who enjoy these gaming establishments. What ever happened to the idea of choice is good?

While C.A.G.E. and the tribes have a right to their opinion I believe their true colors must be made clear. The tribes can't be faulted for trying to keep what they have and on the opposite side why do some find it so strange the mini casino operators simply want a piece of the large pie. As it is now the local tribes have a very lucrative state sponsored monopoly and they wish to keep things the way they are. They have spent hundred of thousands of dollars in their efforts.

If gambling expansion is the issue, the driver isn't mini-casinos, which are one small component of gambling fare. They're just the new kid on the block, and thus the most visible target for antigambling activists who ignore tribal gambling.

So why all the fuss about mini-casinos at this late stage of development?

If we're talking about gambling expansion how about we focus on Tribal casinos or the Mega Lottery?

If we're going to address expansion of gambling in the state, then the focus has to be a whole lot broader than mini-casinos, which actually produce some needed revenue for local government unlike Tribal Casinos that pay nothing.

Frankly I fail to see why this is even an issue and further what is the supposed detrimental impact to consumers or the Tribes. The fact is that if the consumer doesn't want it it will fade away making a \$300 limit moot.

Maleng and the Tribes seem to be saying competition serves no useful purpose to consumers since in order to gain market share competition will lower prices and/or increases pay outs/prizes, improve quality and service to the public and God forbid raise additional tax revenue.

Dave Wilkinson, Kent, WA. 98031

19 B.) From: DW0057@aol.com [mailto:DW0057@aol.com] Sent: Friday, September 19, 2003 11:53 How can Mr. Maleng be so hypocritical as to take the position of completely ignoring Tribal casinos while bashing mini casinos with every breath? Evidently free enterprise will not work so government will have to step in and decide for us because we're to foolish to do it ourselves.

While I do have a bias since I work for a mini casino I do not consider myself an Indian basher and that is not my intent. The tribes here and across the country have been treated horribly in the past by our federal, state and local governments and the opportunities they have now been given with exclusive rights to many popular forms of gambling have helped them pick themselves up and begin to prosper but I should make clear that this does not make a case for a state maintained/sponsored monopoly. Simply put tribal casinos have been allowed to prosper for over 3 years with essentially no real competition and most have prospered and will continue long into the future.

At the risk of repeating myself I have seen not one statement from Mr. Maleng or C.A.G.E. in print or in minutes from W.S.G.C. meetings making a single objection to the massive tribal gaming expansion recently and planned expansions to the tune of over 400 million dollars if we take into consideration the Tulalips, Puyallups, Snoqualmie, Cowlitz, Suquamish and I could go on and on.

I believe the legal term "the fruit of the poisonous tree" has relevance and if we use this term to look at Mr. Maleng's initial relations with Cocker Fennessy and C.A.G.E.'s beginnings you have to discredit Mr. Maleng completely because if the I.G.A. with Mr. Cocker acting as an agent initiated and was the impetus for C.A.G.E. then anything that C.A.G.E. does has to be seen as coming from the Indian Gaming Association, even if indirectly. If it was created by Mr.Cocker

certainly it's difficult to believe he acted totally on his own with no input from the I.G.A. Just because the P.D.C. didn't find criminal wrong doing doesn't mean Mr. Maleng's/C.A.G.E.'s actions didn't include questionable conduct. Even the national association against gaming expansion said there was enough questions about the independence and the origins of C.A.G. E. that it was removing it from it's national website. I would like my comments entered into the record.

### **Dave Wilkinson**

19 C.) From: DW0057@aol.com [mailto:DW0057@aol.com] Sent: Saturday, September 20, 2003 10:34 This is my 3rd and final letter concerning the matter before you on whether to raise limit to \$300 in mini casinos.

After reading through some of the letters submitted to you against the matter I wanted to speak to several things that were in these letters. One letter writer commented that only 1 in 10,000 could afford to play higher limits and anyone who played at these limits would either be an addict or professional gambler. We can argue the true number but Washington has the highest if not one of the highest percentage of millionaires per capita in the United States/. Not to imply a \$300 limit in mini casinos would tempt Bill Gates to play but certainly no one would say that Mr. Gates was a professional or gambling addict simply by him betting \$300 a hand. Using the same logic, a person making \$100,000 a year who enjoys playing blackjack should not be considered an addict or professional because several times a week he/she enjoys playing at levels above \$100. The amount you bet has much more to do with your income than whether you're an addict or professional.

If the argument is rising criminal activity and additional law enforcement needed with a \$300 limit then I would challenge anyone to show a direct correlation between betting limits going from \$25 limit (phase 1) to \$100 (phase 2).

Certainly if we follow the logic that there's an increase in criminal activity as betting limits go up then certainly limits going up 400%, from \$25 to \$100

(phase 1 to phase 2) would show increases in crime when all mini casinos went from phase 1 to phase 2. I would challenge the Commission or C.A.G.E. to provide statistics

showing this increase. Further, when tribal casinos went from \$250 to \$500 I would again challenge you or anyone to show a direct correlation solely between increased crime and the raising of betting limits.

One letter writer commented that "the people aren't requesting or supporting this expansion" (higher limits). It will surprise no one within the gaming business that some of the larger tribal casinos even have high limit areas cordoned off from the rest of the casino specifically for the people who prefer higher limits. If people didn't want these higher limits then the tribal casinos wouldn't have them. This is simply the law of supply and demand. Even in the smaller tribal casinos they certainly have tables reserved for their higher limit players.

This is really a customer service issue, not an expansion of gambling issue as some would paint it. If a customer wishes to have a table to himself and play higher limits shouldn't a business be able to offer this assuming the action is legal in the first place? This has nothing to do with adding new games or more tables which most logical people would consider an expansion. This is simply a request to raise the amount a person can bet. By any stretch of the imagination how can anyone argue this is expansion.

When my property and other taxes go up, they raise prices at the store and my medical insurance premiums go up most would say this is an increase.

If I use C.A.G.E.'s logic then my taxes and prices aren't going up, they're just expanding.

Again this is an issue of allowing the mini casinos to offer their customers

higher betting limits to those that want them. If some of the casinos don't have customers who wish to play at higher limits then the higher limits will be moot.

It doesn't take Einstein to figure out some casinos will have 5 customers, some will have 50 and some will have none depending on the location of the mini casino.

In this economy government should do everything it can to preserve jobs not hamper growth and cost people their jobs. By denying this request you're in effect giving walking papers to employees in some mini casinos. Even if it's only 1 job in each casino that is still over 50 jobs lost.

I would like my statement included in the public record,

#### **Dave Wilkinson**

- 20) From: Erik Holcomb [mailto:divedude007@juno.com] Sent: Friday, October 03, 2003 I am a casino worker and have been in the industry for several years. I would like your help in raising the limits at the card room casino level. most of the players that I deal with say they like the people and the atmosphere at our smaller clubs. but don't come there as often as they would like, because we do not have higher limits. if we had higher limits this would generate more revenue to our families through more food sales and attendance at special events. it would also help the other local business buy there raised exposure to the patrons. Thanks for your time Erik C. Holcomb
- 21) From: Michael M. Vamamoto [mailto:michaelyama@yahoo.com] Sent: Thurs, Oct. 02, 2003 I would like to see the mini-casinos raise the limits to \$300.00. This would give me a opportunity to bet more when I think I have a streak of luck and therefore the dealers would get a larger tip if I do get a bonus. I'd rather keep my money flowing in the state rather than going out of state to gamble. Thanks, Michael M. Yamamoto
- **22) From: trung@webmutha.com** [mailto:trung@webmutha.com] **Sent**: Thursday, Oct 02, 2003 I very much enjoy responsible gaming at the local casinos in my area. Often times I like to be able to bet more than \$100. Please raise the gambling limits to \$250 at your next commission meeting in Spokane on the 10th. Thank You, **Trung**
- 23) From: BDG4U@aol.com [mailto:BDG4U@aol.com] Sent: Thursday, October 02, 2003 I am writing to you as a concerned member of the La Center community and also as a La Center cardroom employee. I would like to urge you to make whatever efforts you can in raising the bet limits for table games in non-tribal casinos. I feel that this would be a small, but important step in closing the competetive gap between privately-owned cardrooms and tribal casinos, which provide much less benefit to the communities in which they are placed. I encourage you to visit La Center to see our town and talk to people on the street about the positive changes the community has undergone since our cardrooms were opened. I fear what the impact would be on our community if a tribal casino were to be opened nearby with the current inequalities still in effect. Thank you in advance for your careful consideration of this matter.

Morgan Wentworth in La Center, Washington

24) From: Connie Jones [mailto:Connie]@columbiacu.org] Sent: Friday, October 03, 2003 Why not raise the betting limits to \$300? By doing so it would be one more step in the right direction for fairness & equality in the gaming industry. The increase will just give the players who normally bet in the \$300 range more locations to choose from. Most likely keeping their dollars in their community. This really is a matter of competition and business survival for the non-tribal casinos. I am a casino employee. We strive to be the model of our industry. I believe we are, but that does not give us the fairness & equality that other industries have. Operating expenses have and will continue to increase. I strongly urge you to increase the limit, allowing us to compete will allow us to continue supporting the great state of Washington, & allow us to keep over 400 employees working. Thank you,

Robyn Cook, Asst. Food & Beverage Manager, New Phoenix/Last Frontier Casinos, La Center,

25) From: Julie Giroux [mailto:jgiroux@thephoenixcasino.com] Sent: Friday, October 03, 2003 I have been employed by the mini-casino industry for over three years, and am excited about the proposed betting limit increasing to \$300. I have had nothing less than an excellent experience while working for my employer, and from all that I've witnessed, our guests and the community have enjoyed the benefits of our business as well. Our La Center area has reaped the benefits from our casinos by means of many donations to local charities and civic groups. Higher limits would help us to sustain and possibly increase our level of contribution. They could also increase the taxes that help fund these projects. Having higher limits could also help our casinos offset the inflationary costs of doing business in this State. By working in Human Resources, I realize that unemployment is out of control. Please, seriously consider this increase so that our employees can continue to enjoy a safe place to earn a living with excellent benefits available to them.

Thank you for your time and consideration. **Julie Giroux**, Human Resources Manager, Safety Chairperson, The New Phoenix and Last Frontier Casinos

**26) From: ERIN CLARK** [mailto:clark23ec@msn.com] **Sent**: Friday, October 03, 2003 I am an employee of a non-tribal casino and I would like to see the betting limit raised for non-tribal casinos in the state of Washington. Thank you **Erin Clark** 

27) From: SparkCollector@aol.com [mailto:SparkCollector@aol.com]Sent: Thurs Oct. 02, 2003 I am just one representative from the organization of casino worker's who care for their people. I believe that customer's should have the choice to where they can play. I feel that we, at the New Phoenix Casino, offer a much higher standard in customer service; however, we are not allowed to attract these people because of the unfair restriction on the wagering limits compared to tribal casinos. Customers usually play at levels they are comfortable with. A new gambler is not likely to take advantage of the higher limits. If we are allowed to increase our limits to 300\$, we will bring people in state revenue dollars rather than losing them to the Oregon tribal casinos because they do not have a choice of similar venues. The survival of some card rooms in the state are dependant upon evening the competition by allowing us to offer similar games and monitor their limits. When the revenue for non-tribal clubs increase, so do the benefits given to employee's of these clubs. This in turn, stimulates the economy for the state. Increasing these limits will help all small businesses, not just the card rooms. All vendors associated with the industry will benefits from the increases revenue that will be generated from this alteration in wagering. Higher limits can lead to increased revenue that will go to local communities to fund projects and sustain the level of contributions to charities and civic groups that each club sponsors. At this moment, 87% of people enjoy some form of gambling or another in this country. By increasing the limits, this number will not increase to 88%. Those people that enjoy themselves, and not forced to frequent tribal casino's if they prefer to wager higher limits than the card rooms are allowed to offer. Hopefully, you will help ensure that our voice will be heard prior to a decision being made by the Washington State Gambling Commission. At this moment, the opposition to our clubs are recieving \$300 limits. We feel strongly that we can handle this level of limits with integrity and would be able to expand our customer base by being able to offer more options for some players. Thank you in advance for any assistance you can provide us with. With regard,

### Rebecca Kludt

28) From: David [mailto:david@ransier.com] Sent: Friday, October 03, 2003

Please consider raising the gambling limits to \$300. I am a resident of La Center, WA and my wife is a casino worker. The casinos have been a blessing to my town and to my family. What was once a small town on the verge of bankruptcy is now a thriving community. The town looks beautiful and is a wonderful, safe place to live and raise a family. People are now moving here instead of leaving. The casinos contribute to the community in many ways, they employ many people in the community and give the city a source of revenue. They also very generously donate their time and money to charities and civic groups. Raising the gambling limits would help these casinos compete with tribal casinos as well as attract players from out of state. The survival of the casinos - and quite possibly the town I live in - depends on a level playing field for all. It would allow it and others to offer similar games and limits and also attract higher wagers, just as the tribal casinos do. Please support the casinos in our state and allow them to compete with the tribal casinos by raising the gambling limits to \$300. **David Ransier** 

29) From: anacleto tumbaghan [mailto:outkast84@msn.com] Sent: Thursday, Oct. 02, 2003 Increasing wagering limits can help the economy of the state. Small business and vendors associated with the gaming industry will benefit from the increased revenues generated. Fair competition in the market place is the best way to ensure a strong economic environment and at this time the card rooms are operating under unfair competition. Higher limits will increase revenue for card rooms which in turn increase the benefits given to employees of these businesses stimulating the economy of the state. Local communities will benefit from the increased taxes generated from higher limits. Overall, this is a win/win situation. thank you for your time, Anacleto Tumbagahan

**30) From: eviefox@comcast.net** [mailto:eviefox@comcast.net] **Sent**: Fri Oct 03, 2003 I am a Tablegames Supervisor at the Last Frontier and New Phionix Casinos in LaCenter, WA. I have grown with the Washington State laws regarding the limits of play for over a quarter of a century. They started at a \$2 limit in the seventies to a \$20 limit in 2003 for poker and a \$25 to \$100 dollar limit in table games. While we are confined to these limits, the Tribal limits are \$500 in table games and no limit in poker. Furthermore, the State *E-Mails Supporting Increasing Betting Limits* Page 7 of 16

Lottery is unlimited where anyone can purchase as many multiples as one can afford in any given game. To co-exist in the gaming industry with increased expenses (i.e., taxes, workers comp, Insurance, employee's health benefits and inflation); it is unreasonable that our limits are not the same. In our two casinos we have over four hundred employees. Their families and those of our vendor's need the security of the same limits that is extended to those in the same industry. Equality to all governed by the Washington State Gaming Commission should not only be expected, but mandatory.

In conclusion, as one licensed and governed by the Washington State Gambling Commission I know that the regulations and limits apply to everyone with a license equally. I am sure you would agree that an imbalance by a Federal or State agency in any trade is discriminatory and unconstitutional. Sincerely, **Evelene Fox**,

- 31) From: sheryl kollmeyer [mailto:sherylandtom@angelfire.com] Sent: Friday, Oct 03, 2003 I have been employed at the Phoenix/last Frontier casinos for the past 2 years, have been in the gaming business for the past 5 years, it is my livelihood. I feel it very important for the Gambling Commission to raise the limits to \$300 so we can compete with the tribal casinos. We need to even out the playing field so we who work in this industry can make money also. We support many charities and civic groups and pay taxes to help the local communities, PLEASE help us stay competitive Thank-You, Sheryl Kollmeyer
- 32) From: Patty Garvey [mailto:patty\_g4@yahoo.com] Sent: Friday, October 03, 2003
  My name is Patty Garvey and I work for the Last Frontier Casino in LaCenter, WA. I am sending you this e-mail to help ensure my employment with a company who care about its people. The competition is sorely out of balance at this time. Please help my company continue to compete. Raising our limits will help us to compete with the tribal casinos in our state and Oregon. Without the increase in wagering limits we do not have a fair chance against the minority clubs in this state that enjoy broader limits and game venues. The survival of some card rooms in the state are dependent upon evening the competition by allowing us to offer similar games and limits. At this time the burden of increased operational costs without the ability to increase the revenue is closing doors and taking revenue out of the state and local government hands and instead these dollars are going to help a tiny segment of the states population and not the majority of the citizens. Thank you for your time. Patty Garvey
- 33) From: Joan Ransier [mailto:Joan@Ransier.com] Sent: Thursday, October 02, 2003
  Please consider raising the gambling limits to \$300. I am a resident of La Center, WA and also a casino worker. The casinos have been a blessing to my town and to me. What was once a small town on the verge of bankruptcy is now a thriving community. The town looks beautiful and is a wonderful, safe place to live and raise a family. People are now moving here instead of leaving. We have a good friend in the casinos. They employ many people in the community and give the city a source of revenue it would not enjoy otherwise. In addition to paying taxes to the city of La Center, they also very generously donate their time and money to charities and civic groups. Raising the gambling limits would help these casinos compete with tribal casinos in our state and in Oregon. The survival of the casino I work for and quite possibly the town I live in depends on a level playing field for all. It would allow it and others to offer similar games and limits and also attract higher wagers, just as the tribal casinos do. I want to continue to work for a company that cares about its people and the community. Please support the casinos in our state and allow them to compete with the tribal casinos by raising the gambling limits to \$300.

  Joan Ransier
- **34) From:** Susan Malcolm [mailto:ps2susan@comcast.net] Sent: Monday, October 06, 2003 I would like to state for the record that I believe the non-tribal casino's should be allowed to have \$300 limits. Sincerely, Susan
- 35) From: Susan Malcolm [mailto:ps2susan@comcast.net] Sent: Monday, October 06, 2003 i feel it is only fair that the small casino's (non-tribal) be allowed higher limits, \$300 would be a fair amount. It is a small compensation to them and more money for the cities/municipalities. Thank you, Janet Buzard
- **36) From: Chip Mudarri** [mailto:ChipM@freddiesfife.com] **Sent:** Tuesday, October 07, 2003 My name is Chip Mudarri and I own and operate Freddies Club in Fife. I could repeat the inequities you've heard about our industry but theres not much more to say that you already have'nt heard. Bottom line if we are-not able to compete on a level playing field, I and my 125 employees will be out of business, the city of Fife, which counts on the revenue generated from Freddies will also suffer. My tax dollars pays the debt service on a

\$4million bond issue that payed for the soccer field for the children of Fife and surrounding communities. Please give us higher limits so we can attemp to stay in business

#### Chip Mudarri

- 37) From: Cory Coyle [mailto:corycoyle@hotmail.com] Sent: Friday, September 26, 2003 I would like to voice my support for higher betting limits at card rooms. As a social gambler I enjoy playing cards at my local card room and would like to have the opportunity to place higher bets. Thank you
- 38) From: nik buckmaster [mailto:nikbuck55@hotmail.com] Sent: Friday, September 26, 2003 I am emailing about the betting limits in this state. I have been a recreational gambler for some time now and I think that we should be able to have higher betting limits. I support higher betting limits and I would like to see them increase up to \$300 or even \$500. thanks for your time and I hope to see higher betting limits in Washington State real soon. Nik Buckmaster
- **39) From: Terri Stanberry** [mailto:tberry1978@hotmail.com] **Sent**: Friday, September 26, 2003 Mr. Day. I am writing to let you know that I am in favor of raising the betting limit to \$300.00. Thank you, **Terri Stanberry**
- 40) From: CHRISTY HUMPHRIES [mailto:freakymomma4@hotmail.com] Sent: Friday, 9-26-03 I HAVE RECENTLY HEARD ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF THE BETTING LIMITS BEING RAISED TO \$300 IN THE NON-TRIBAL CASINOS AND WOULD LIKE TO STATE THAT I AM VERY MUCH IN FAVOR OF THIS. I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE TRIBAL CASINOS SHOULD BE THE "ONLY GAME IN TOWN". THERE WILL ALWAYS BE THOSE WHO WILL TRY TO PUSH THEIR OWN MORALS ON TO OTHERS, BUT I AM AN ADULT AND WHAT I DO WITH MY TIME AND MONEY IS OF NO CONCERN TO ANYONE BUT MYSELF. THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME TO HAVE MY VOICE. —CHRISTY
- 41) From: Lisa Aweeka [mailto:lisaa@gcicasinos.com] Sent: Friday, September 26, 2003
  Being an avid player in card rooms, I really am in support of the increase of table limits from the \$100 limits that are present today to \$300 limits. Gaming is a form of entertainment for me and many other colleagues. With the implementation of increased limits, you will be providing to myself and many others in the community, a more competitive and attractive atmosphere to enjoy social gaming. Thanks for your consideration. Respectfully, Lisa Aweeka, Human Resources Administrator
- **42) From: Moeller, Matthew W** [mailto:matthew.w.moeller@boeing.com] Sent: Friday, Sept. 26, 2003 Please raise the betting limits from \$100 to \$250. As a responsible gambler I would like to have the option/discretion of betting the amount of money I see fit. I like to keep my money in Washington State and I don't want to be forced to travel to a more gambling environment. Thank you for your time, **Matt Moeller**
- 43) From: Tod McClane [mailto:theodopolis@comcast.net] Sent: Friday, September 26, 2003 Dear Rick Day, I would like to see higher betting limits in the casinos near my house in Des Moines. I think I should be allowed to bet as I choose where I choose. If I should happen to lose my money, I think it should benefit my community by being taxed. I prefer not to have to drive a long ways to do something that is legal in our state. Thank you for listening, Tod McClane
- 44) From: Charles Whicker [mailto:charles\_whicker@yahoo.com] Sent: Saturday, September 27, 2003 I'm writing to voice my opinion on the rights for card rooms to increase there betting limits...I have worked in tribal casinos in the past and now am employed at a card room and would love to know why it is that tribal casinos get all the benefits when the cards room pay higher taxes and employ alot of people, who's lives depend on our jobs.. And too am very puzzled why the card rooms have been denined slots, espically with all of the people who have signed petetions and attended the rallies and still no slots? So put this down for a vote for higher limits...Thank you...Charles Whicker

- 45) From: Verne Lotts [mailto:vernelotts@comcast.net] Sent: Saturday, September 27, 2003 I'm writing to you to encourage you to approve the increase in betting limits. I'm currently being supported by unemployment as I was laid of by a casino which is struggling financially. I know that increased limits will help small casinos to stay in business. Please approve the increase in limits so others do not lose their jobs. Thank you. **Verne Lotts**
- 46) From: Chris Jensen [mailto:chrisjensen@gcicasinos.com] Sent: Saturday, September 27, 2003 I would just like to say on record that I am a long term casino employee and I really hope that we are given higher limits because I know it will help my family and income. I really support the higher limits and hope they come our way. Thanks for your time. Brad Shores 253-241-5049
- 47) From: Jack Walker [mailto:jackw@gcicasinos.com] Sent: Saturday, September 27, 2003 Please allow higher limits in the smaller casinos. I feel it would greatly improve my opportunities for higher income, as well as help the community with potential for higher taxes being paid. Everyone wins with them. Thank you for your time. Chai Saetane 206-660-7598
- 48) From: Jack Walker [mailto:jackw@gcicasinos.com] Sent: Saturday, September 27, 2003 I wanted to say that I support the higher limits for mini casinos. Not only would it help the business by increasing profits but also generate more tax dollars for the community. I think it would help my personal income as well. Thank you for your time.

Vanny Kendall 206-353-1126

49) From: Cage [mailto:cage@cadillac-ranch.net] Sent: Sunday, September 28, 2003 I It was recently brought to my attention that the Washington State Gaming was considering increasing the limits on table games in state regulated Casinos. I have worked for the past three years as a cashier at the Cadillac Ranch Casino and Entertainment Company in Longview, Wa. I have seen a range of players play within our casino, some with considerable amounts of capital. I draw from what I have seen the understanding that players come to our Casino for two reasons, Excitement and Social interaction. The current limits that have been granted to the casinos around the state, have been reasonable in allowing the players to experience a level of excitement that they desire. Yet, I see a restriction of the freedom of choice, within the reasonable allowances of the Commission. Card players are level headed people that know their limits. By giving players the opportunity to expand their limits, it allows them to experience more control over their game. Take for example a player that has just built up a large sum of chips, and has decided that increasing their bet would be more entertaining. This player may look to the current limit of \$100 set on the table and feel that they were such a big winner it was time to push the limit and play \$100 bets, increasing their chance for loss. On the other hand this same winning player may look to a higher limit, say \$250, and think that it is too much for them to play, and instead they go with a lower amount of \$25 bets. In the end I want to bring to your attention that choice allows more room for people to think above the excitement and experience more of the social interaction our staff has to offer. Thank you for time in reading my support on this issue.

**Andy Sapp,** 1337 10th Ave Apt. 3, Longview, Wa. 98632

- 50) From: EARD1017@aol.com [mailto:EARD1017@aol.com] Sent: Sunday, September 28, 2003 I have been in the gaming industry since 1997 when the cardrooms were allowed to expand. I started as a dealer and have worked my way up the ladder to a corporate director position. During this time frame the industry has not been able to offer anything additional to the gaming public. We have had many customers that have expressed interest in an increase in wagering limits. The "social gambler" has a varied definition of an average wager, for some it is \$5 -\$10, but for others it is \$300 - \$500. By increasing the wagering limits we would be meeting the publics desires, and it would enable those of us who support our families from this industry, to have improved health care, higher wages, retirement, etc. I greatly appreciate your consideration of this matter. Sincerely, Todd Marshall
- 51) From: rvlotts@comcast.net [mailto:rvlotts@comcast.net] Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2003 I am a lifetime resident of the State of Washington. My husband and myself have had the opportunity to work and contribute to the economy of this state for all of our adult lives. Unfortunately, this is not the case for adults today. Many businesses are closing and or leaving the state of Washington. I feel we need to do everything we

can to support businesses and keep them in our state so they can employ our citizens. We have too many people on unemployment. Unfortunately one of them is my son who was working for a casino but had to be let go because of financial difficulties. Please approve the increase in betting limits so more people do not lose their jobs and end up on public services. Raising the limits and supporting business is the only reasonable thing to do.

52) From: Jim Bakunowicz [mailto:gaming@cadillac-ranch.net] Sent: Friday, September 26, 2003 Thank you in advance for taking time to read this email. I have not had the pleasure of meeting you but hope to in the very near future. An increase in betting limits would help to offset the increasing operating cost that we face. In all reality it would not cause any adverse effects on anyone. An increase would help the card room to market their product to a little bit different market. We hope that you will support the increase and help us to enhance our business. Thank you for time

Jim Bakunowicz, President, Cadillac Ranch Casino, Longview WA

53) From: ianadams@comcast.net [mailto:ianadams@comcast.net] Sent: Friday, September 26, 2003 I am the manager of a growing card room/bar in the Snohomish county area of Washington. I am writing to you to ask you to consider further concessions to card rooms. At the moment we are able to offer only hundred dollar limits and only card games. This leads to us being the poor kids on the block. Good gamblers often leave my establishment after finding that they can "only"bet \$100. I have several current players who play at this limit and would hate to lose them to an establishment that can offer better betting ranges. We are active in our local community and provide jobs to several single parents who would otherwise be unable to provide for their children, owing to our flexible hours and competetive benefits. Our customer service is second to none but would love to be able to attract a few more higher limit players. Sincerely, Ian Adams

54) From: Aaron Stovall [mailto:aaronrgi@sysmatrix.net] Sent: Friday, September 26, 2003 I write as a long-time employee of the gaming industry in Washington State. I first started in a tribal casino eightand-a-half years ago, and have been working in the non-tribal enhanced cardrooms since November of 1997. My resume includes three tribal casinos and seven non-tribals, and consulting for two more. I am deeply concerned about the inequities in the regulation of tribal vs. non-tribal gaming. For example, my last employer, Rocco Gaming Inc, dba Hideaway Federal Way, was unprofitable and closed down in large part due to the excessive 20% tax on gambling receipts levied by the city of Federal Way, while tribal casinos pay no taxes at all. Furthermore, tribal casinos are permitted a much wider variety of games with significantly higher wagering limits. Not only does this mean that the tribal casinos get the lion's share of the gaming dollars in this state, but those dollars are untaxed and do not circulate back into the community in the way that non-tribal revenues do. The many millions of dollars collected by the non-tribal casinos, if taxed, would have a significant impact on the state's economy and budget. While taxing the tribal venues is fairly unlikely, a similar effect could be had by relaxing some restrictions on the non-tribal operations. If non-tribal casinos were allowed the same betting limits as the tribals, it would result in approximately two to three times the taxes on gambling receipts to the city; in addition, it would save some of the non-tribal operations that are in danger of closing, saving those jobs, and those workers spend their money locally. Many tribal casinos have foreign backers, and their casino income leaves our state.

The new trend of tribes buying land off the reservations and designating it as honorary tribal land for the purposes of more casinos is a disturbing one. What prevents a tribe from buying land on the Seattle waterfront and building a casino there, even though Seattle prohibits gaming within city limits? Such a casino would technically be on tribal trust land and therefore immune to regulation. The under-regulation of tribal casinos has led to an imbalance in the competitive market for recreational gaming. The American economy is built on small business and the free market system; the regulatory inequities hobble the small businesspeople and fly in the face of the free market concept. It would be much healthier for the state if the untaxed and underregulated gambling establishments had more restrictions, not the other way around. (For the purpose of this argument I have disregarded the illegal tribal operations which have no compact with the state and therefore are tacitly permitted to have slot machines and no regulations, but that is another problem.) Please consider allowing the non-tribal casinos to expand their wagering limits and/or the variety of games offered. Once again, the money made off those non-tribal operations benefits the community more than the substantially larger amount of money made by untaxed and underregulated tribal casinos. Please support local economies and our state by leveling the playing field. Thank you for your time, **Aaron Stovall**, Auburn Resident, Gaming License # 68-03363

- 55) From: BowlEastmont@aol.com [mailto:BowlEastmont@aol.com] Sent: Monday, Sept. 29, 2003 I would just like to give an opinion if that's okay:) I would like to see increased betting limits for mini-casinos. I think that way, the people who like to bet big can do so, and yet the people who don't want to don't have to. Sometimes if you have the money, it's a lot of fun to bet a bigger bet. Plus, it would allow local monies to stay where they came from. It's nice for the local casinos to have a chance to at least give a little competition to bigger places. Anyway, that's my thought. Thank you for your time. Michelle
- 56) From: Cindy Gaylor [mailto:cgaylor@thephoenixcasino.com] Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2003 I am writing to urge you to move forward with phase III for mini-casinos in the State allowing them to increase the maximum allowable wager to \$300. I have been an employee of the New Phoenix and Last Frontier Casinos for almost six years and have been a part of each phase up to this one. The casinos I work for have been a terrific place of employment. I have not witnessed the stereotypical things I sometimes hear associated with the gaming industry. On the other hand, I can vouch for how much this organization gives back to the community as I am fortunate enough to be a part of the donation process within our casinos. We also offer a very nice benefit package to employees, something that is becoming harder and harder to find in these trying economic times. Our companies are working very hard to remain a viable place of employment but operational costs continue to rise. Without some way to increase revenue I fear that we may have to begin cutting corners in order to remain in business, this usually comes in the form of reduced benefits or reduction in work force. My family is counting on my job and income. I enjoy working for this company and also need the benefits that are offered. Based on my own experience as a recreational gambler and my years of dealing experience it is ludicrous to think that raising the limits to \$300 in our casinos will suddenly make the majority of people frequenting our casinos wager at this new maximum limit. It just doesn't happen that way. When I frequent a casino that offers higher limits I never feel compelled to bet the maximum just because it is allowed. What the increase in the maximum allowable wager could do is attract some players to our casinos that are now forced to drive long distances to tribal casinos that are allowed to offer these higher limits. I feel confident that we would have some of this segment of the business if we were allowed to offer the higher limits. I understand our competition wanting to keep their monopoly with higher limits, slots and dice games, but feel that our company is giving so much back to this community in the form of tax revenues and donations it is an honest to goodness shame that we are forced to continue to have such a difference between what is legal in the state, and what is allowed in the state depending on who's name the business is recorded under. Please help bridge the gap of fair competition by allowing the card rooms and mini-casinos to move forward with the increase in maximum wager to \$300. I appreciate your time in considering this very important issue, thank you. Feel free to contact me at 360-518-6405, I would be happy to give more information or speak to the commission as needed. Sincerely, Cindy Gaylor, Concerned Citizen of Vancouver, Washington
- 57) From: HoweJerry@aol.com [mailto:HoweJerry@aol.com] Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2003 Some of our customers travel out of the area to play higher limits. they would stay home and play more if they could play higher.
- 58) From: Keri [mailto:keri@cadillac-ranch.net] Sent: Wednesday, October 01, 2003 I would just like to express my opinion about the increase in betting limits. I don't think there is a problem with the increase. If the individual chooses to bet the higher amount it is his/her own business and right to do so. If a person chooses to stick with the minimum that is his/her own decision so let the players decide for themselves how much they want to bet. This is America!

  Keri Barker, graphic designer Cadillac Ranch Casino
- 59) From: Cheryl Swenson [mailto:cswenson@thephoenixcasino.com] Sent: Wed, October 01, 2003 I am writing you to urge the Washington State Gambling Commission to raise our Casino limits to \$300. My position with the New Phoenix and Last Frontier Casinos in LaCenter, WA., is Organizational Development/Human Resources Director. This is a position that gives me insight into our business being just like any other business.....we employ over 400 employees, with an accounting department, human resources, training, food and beverage, etc. We are a professional company, having policies and procedures for our employees, standard operating procedures, good benefits, and a diverse employee population that consists of 29% ethnic minorities and 49% of our employees are female. The survival of our business and many other card room/mini casinos may very well depend upon balancing the competition, allowing us to compete with the tribal casinos who

already have higher limits. When our revenue increases, in turn it stimulates the economy of the state and benefits our employees. Increasing the limits can help all small businesses, not just the card rooms. With more revenue generated, in turn we generate additional revenue for vendors and other small businesses around us. With increased limits we can bring people into this state through fair competition in the market place. Our level of responsibility as a good business citizen will not change as it is in our best interest to continue to provide a safe, clean, fun place to work and play. So, in closing please encourage the WSGC to raise our limits to \$300 to ensure that we continue to be competitive and work for a company that cares about its people and community. Sincerely, Cheryl J. Swenson

- 60) From: BETTY MANES [mailto:souldomain@msn.com] Sent: Wednesday, October 01, 2003
  I am a casino worker in a card room/casino and would like to see our limits raised to ensure we offer the highest standard of customer service. We are not able to accomodate all those that would frequent our clubs because of the unfair (dare I say, discrimination) restrictions on wagering limits compared to tribal casinos. Customers should have a choice of where they can play. If they enjoy higher wagers they can only play at tribal casinos at this time. The competition is sorely out of balance. Please help us to continue to compete. Without the increase in wagering limits we do not stand a chance. Which in turn will mean more people out of work. Fair competition in the market place is the best way to ensure a strong economic environment. Please help me and my fellow employees keep our jobs. Thank you, Betty Manes
- 61) From: Jeff Kassel [mailto:jkassel@thephoenixcasino.com] Sent: Wednesday, October 01, 2003 As the Chief Financial Officer of a mini-casino these past 5 years, and, as fairly educated person with a Bachelor's Degree and Masters Degree in Economics and Business Administration, I feel perfectly competent in addressing the issue of increasing the betting limits. First of all, this country was build around the free enterprise system and a competitive marketplace. Not being able to "charge", what a customer is willing to spend, is detrimental to the cornerstone of our economic foundation. With the economy in Western Washington taking a nosedive these past couple of years, and, the state budget having a mounting deficit, a stimulant or jolt is what is needed, not a depressant. By allowing mini-casinos to increase their betting limits to \$300, a number of important, positive economic factors will take place. First of all, with higher costs heaped on mini-casinos every year(utilities, wages, benefits, Labor & Industries, food, taxes, etc.), the increase in revenue will help alleviate some of this burden. Without the increased betting limits, many of the mini-casinos in our state may have to close their doors as they are unable to generate enough income to cover the ever-increasing costs. This of course leads to a higher unemployment, less taxes generated going to local communities, more burden on the state coffers, a larger deficit, another words, a downward spiral!!! Secondly, with an increase to \$300 limits, people will come to play into this state from Oregon and Washingtonians will stay here rather than go to Oregon Tribal casinos to play. These people will not only spend money at the casinos, but with the local businesses as well. As the local business increases, more and more people are employed by these businesses, higher salaries and more benefits are paid to employees, more tax is generated for the state, an economic upswing!!!! As it is, the term, "the competition" when applied to the Tribal casinos, is really a misnomer. Customers should be able to choose where they want to spend their money. Higher wage bettors now only have the choice of the Tribal casinos, that's a far cry from a true competitive marketplace. Putting handcuffs on what a company can charge, or in this case, what a customer can bet, goes against the fair and equitable doctrine of economic equality. Make this issue a win-win for all concerned. The towns, cities, counties, state, vendors, employees, and most of all Washington State will be affected by your decision. Please think long and hard about the economic impact, a positive one if the limits are raised to just \$300, negative if they are not. I appreciate your willingness to take comments regarding this issue and I'm sure you and the WSGC will ultimately choose the best course for all concerned. Sincerely, Jeff Kassel
- 62) From: Sue Boyd [mailto:sboyd@thephoenixcasino.com] Sent: Wednesday, October 01, 2003
  I have worked in the casino industry for over 30 years in the state of Washington. As a single parent, this enabled me to support my four children and buy a home. I started out as a floor supervisor in Vancouver WA at the Frontier, and I am now employed as the Assistant Casino Manager of the New Phoenix and Last Frontier casinos in WA State. Increasing the limits can help all small businesses, not just the card rooms. All areas associated with this industry will benefit from the increased revenues generated. Fair competition in the market place is the best way to stabilize the economic environment. Allowing a \$300 betting limit will allow our company to grow

and hire more employees rather than losing business to tribal casinos and having to lay off employees. Thank you, **Sue Boyd**, Assistant Casino Manager, New Phoenix and Last Frontier Casinos

- 63) From: max and kelly [mailto:maxandkelly@tds.net] Sent: Thursday, October 02, 2003 increasing the betting limits for mini casinos will only benifit the employees and the local business. As the head of a family of 5 i ask you to help me insure me supporting my family. I only ask that help to keep tax dollars here, at home, rather than let it keep goin to tribal casinos. I just cant understand why this government would let our economy sprial downhill when we have in our hands a viably means to to jumpstart so many area businesses. So if you will leval the playing field we will do the rest.
- 64) From:GARR3@aol.com [mailto:GARR3@aol.com] Sent: Wednesday, October 01, 2003

  I feel it is unfair for the non-tribal clubs to operate under unfair competition with the tribal casinos in our state and in Oregon. Please help the non-tribal clubs continue to compete by allowing the limits to increase to \$300. Fair competition in the market place is the best way to ensure a strong economic environment. When the revenue of non-tribal clubs increase so do the benefits given to employees of these clubs; this is turn stimulates the economy of the state. Many small businesses associated with this industry can benefit from the increased revenues generated, not just the non-tribal clubs. Higher limits could also increase taxes generated going to local communities to fund their projects and help us to sustain the level of contributions to charities and civic groups that each club sponsors. Without the increase in wagering limits, we do not have a fair chance against the tribal casinos that enjoy broader limits and game venues in our state and in Oregon; forcing people who enjoy gambling with higher wagers to frequent tribal casinos rather than non-tribal clubs. The tribal casinos are exempt from municipal and state taxation, which reduces the size of tax revenue that can be used for human services, public safety, roads and education forcing the burden on lawmakers to come up with alternatives. Allowing non-tribal clubs to fairly compete against tribal casinos will benefit the customer, employee, vendors and most importantly the state economy. Thank you for your time, Christopher D. Swindell.
- 65) From: Mike Holt [mailto:mholt@thephoenixcasino.com] Sent: Wednesday, October 01, 2003 There has been a lot of conversation lately regarding whether mini-casinos should be approved to offer higher betting limits. The conversation should be, how do we get fairness and equity within the state for the gaming industry? I am speaking to you as the General Manager of the New Phoenix and Last Frontier Casinos, as well as a single father of four children. I also have been raised in the gaming industry in Washington State as long as I can remember; my Mother began her career in the gaming industry back in the mid 70's. I have followed the positive growth of the gaming industry by starting off as a Floor Supervisor in 1986 and spending the last 18 years gaining knowledge and education to be qualified to be the General Manager of the model casinos in Washington State. I am more than qualified to give you a well rounded perspective to consider as we look for fairness and equity within the gaming industry. Gaming is legal in the state of Washington. Not only is it legal, but it is socially accepted in the state and all across the country. So my question is why would higher limits be good in some casinos, but not in all licensed facilities? Why would the state not want to take advantage of the revenues available by allowing fair competition within the state between like businesses? In 1988 our casinos started with approximately 25 employees. Today we employ over 400 employees offering benefits from 401K plans, medical and dental plans, paid time off, meal allowances, training and other benefits. We are regulated very strictly by all governing agencies and in compliance to standards that meet or exceed requirements. We are an employer of choice within the industry and have a high level of commitment to fulfill the Vision and Mission of our company. With saying that, there are numerous costs associated with being the model of the casino industry or any industry that employs 400 employees. Higher limits are one way that we can help offset these necessary costs of doing business. We will be able to attract a new type of customer that normally would not frequent our properties because we cannot offer them what our competition can offer. We will have the ability to attract out of state customers as well as tribal customers that enjoy higher limits. Let me state, I am not against Tribal casinos. I want to compete with them and anyone else, but to be able to compete I must have the same rules apply to me that does to them. We live in America, and my belief is all man was created equal, so what I am asking you to consider is, is the playing field equal? If not, why not? I am sure you are aware there is a Tribal casino trying to open within 2 miles of our properties. If we don't have the opportunity to compete with our competition our community, our employees and the State will sorely suffer. It only makes sense to allow us to have not only \$300 limits but the opportunity to offer the same entertainment that our competition offers and allow customers the choice to play where they decide based on value being offered, not force them to decide one over the other because one is allowed to offer more than the other. In closing, I want to remind you that

gambling is neither good or bad, it just is. It is the individual who makes it what it is. Please keep this in mind when considering fairness and equity within the industry. I am available to meet with you or anyone of your staff members to discuss any and all issues pertaining to our industry. I thank you in advance for your consideration. Sincerely, **Michael Holt**, General Manager, New Phoenix and Last Frontier Casinos, 1-360-573-5622

- 66) From: BABRANDS@aol.com [mailto:BABRANDS@aol.com] Sent: Wed., Oct. 01, 2003

  My name is Betty Brands and I am writing to you to ask for your support in raising the betting limits to \$300 in the mini-casinos. I have worked in the gaming industry for over 16 years. I would like to see our limits raised to ensure that I can continue to work for a company that truely cares about its people. Our customers should have a choice of where they can play. If they enjoy higher wagers they can only play at tribal casinos at this time. I feel that we offer a higher standard of customer service but are not able to attract all those that would frequent our clubs because of the unfair restrictions on wagering limits compared to tribal casinos. If we are allowed to increase our betting limits to \$300 we will bring people into this state to spend revenue dollars rather than losing them to the Oregon tribal casinos because they do not have a choice of similar venues. Fair competition in the marketplace is the best way to ensure a strong economic environment. At this time, the mini-casinos are operating under unfair competition. Allowing the mini-casinos to increase betting limits to \$300 will help even out the playing field. Please help my company continue to compete. Thank you for your time. Betty Brands
- 67) From: Lisa [mailto:lisa@cadillac-ranch.net] Sent: Wednesday, October 01, 2003 My name is Lisa Reinke and I work at The Cadillac Ranch Casino and Entertainment Company. Currently, we employ approximately 140 employees. Our casino is located in the State of Washington, which right now has the second highest minimum wage rate in the United States. With another increase in the rate coming soon, small casino's such as ours, really take a hit. An increase in the betting limits for the state of Washington could really help smaller businesses such as ours.

No matter how you feel about gambling, you have to be pro jobs. If these small businesses keep getting their taxes raised and the minimum wage rate raised with no chance for increase in revenue, they will start closing their doors. Raising or lowering the betting limits is not going to decrease or increase gambling but raising the betting limits can increase revenue in our casino's which can in turn increase jobs for our unemployed citizens across the state. Thanks for your time. **Lisa Reinke** 

- **68)** From: Tracy Engstrom [mailto:tracyengstrom@comcast.net] Sent: Thursday, October 02, 2003 My husband and I are recreational gamblers so we really enjoy going to all the local casino's. We would like you to consider the \$300 limit.

  Thank you, Wayne & Tracy
- 69) From: Susan Malcolm [mailto:ps2susan@comcast.net] Sent: Monday, October 06, 2003
  Hi, i feel it is only fair that the small casino's (non-tribal) be allowed higher limits, \$300 would be a fair amount.
  It is a small compensation to them and more money for the cities/municipalities.
  Janet Buzard
- 70) From: Susan Malcolm [mailto:ps2susan@comcast.net] Sent: Monday, October 06, 2003 Hi: I would like to state for the record that I believe the non-tribal casino's should be allowed to have \$300 limits. Susan
- 71) From: Jim Deckon [mailto:jimd@cadillac-ranch.net] Sent: Tuesday, October 07, 2003

  I am writing you on the issue of increased betting limits. As an employee of a non-tribal, 15-table mini-casino, I fully support this issue. The Gaming industry has provided me a living wage job over the last 2 1/2 years. This is in Cowlitz County, which has had double-digit unemployment for a long time. Mini-casinos are under pressure from Tribal casinos to stay competitive in any way possible. This possible increase would let us stay competitive within the State. Many of our customers may not partake in the higher limits, but it would be nice to offer something new and exciting to our customers. I appreciate your time and consideration.

Jim Deckon - Cadillac Ranch Casino

72) From: Turner, Andy (IPR\_Research) [mailto:ATurner@russell.com] Sent: Tuesday, Oct. 07, 2003 It is my belief that individuals best know their own financial circumstances and can best decide how much they can afford to lose. Certainly they know better than the state. Other than to regulate basic fairness in dealing, the state should not be involved in regulating gambling least of all by regulating wager size. I support raising the single wager limit!

Turner, Andy (IPR\_Research)

73) From: Rich Jensen [mailto:threewolves3@qwest.net] Sent: Thursday, October 09, 2003 Please increase the limits.

Rich Jensen